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T W O

PRIVATE LETTERS

T O

A GENTLEMAN IN ENGLAND,

F R O M

HIS SON WHO ACCOMPANIED

EARL CORNWALLIS,

O N H I S

EXPEDITION TO LUCKNOW

In the Year 1787.

PETERBOROUGH, PRINTED BY J. JACOB,

MDCCCLXXXVIII.



T W O
PRIVATE LETTERS.

L E T T E R I.

On the Ganges near Boglipour,
August 16, 1787.

MY DEAREST FATHER,

ALTHO' I very lately sent to the post-office an overgrown packet for my good Mother, which I rather suppose she will require a superior degree of patience to peruse, yet, as the vessel which is to convey our present dispatches, from various causes is detained at Calcutta, and probably the month may expire before she quits the Roads, I, in consequence of this delay, determined upon addressing a few lines to you, to describe the progress we have already made in our Expedition up the country, with all occurrences worthy of note, since we left the Presidency.

This event took place the 28th of last month, when the Governor general with all

his family and staff officers, proceeded to the first military station called Barrickpore, about 12 miles from Calcutta. — Here we remained till the next morning, to collect all our budge-rows, pinaces and boats, to the amount of fifty; and passing all the foreign settlements without stopping to pay or receive compliments, we arrived at a place called Sookfaugur, near 30 miles from Calcutta, late in the evening. — We here saw a good English-built house, belonging to a merchant; and a large indigo manufactory, the smell of which was, if possible more offensive than the flax pits in the Lincolnshire fens. The next day, July 30th, we reached Micapour, 30 miles further, the country a perfect swamp, and inundated in many parts, to the very doors of the miserable huts of the native farmers. The 31st. we made nearly the same progress, through a much drier and pleasanter part of the province, having the rice grounds beautifully green, with several fine topes of trees, on both sides the river, in the centre of which, many well inhabited villages were situated. On the 1st. of this month, ~~having~~ quitted the Hooghley river, and got
into

into the Coffinbazar, which river you will see in Rennel's map of Bengal, meets the Jellinghee near Nuddcah, and together form the Hooghley, which runs by Calcutta into the sea.—We this day passed a place, reputed to abound with tygers, called Pattotee, and arrived at Augah-deep in the evening; both these spots are marked in the above map. The 2d of August brought us to the small village of Surampore, near Plaffey,—and on the 3d we beheld those famous plains of Plaffey, where lord Clive's bravery and good conduct, aided by the base treachery of Jaffier Ali Cawn, who deserted his master to join his troops with those of the noble invader, gained immortal glory in the complete overthrow of the numerous forces of the unfortunate Nabob! The grove where our troops encamped is still in existence, and part of the nabob's hunting seat, where lord Clive fixed his head quarters, tho' the river has encroached considerably on the field of battle, and washed a great deal of it away.—The course of the river here is so exceedingly serpentine, that we were during the whole day

day in sight of Plassey, and seemed in the evening to anchor as close to it as when we first saw it in the morning — vide Rennel's Bengal map. — On these plains great part of the year, the hunting and shooting is wonderfully fine, and I may add coursing too; — the hunting consists in tyger, hog, and deer; the shooting in partridge, quail, black cocks, &c. and the coursing which is excellent sport in many parts of Bengal, in hares and foxes: the last affords best diversion with english greyhounds. — I have not been able to pursue all these amusements as yet, but am strongly desirous of being in some measure acquainted with them all during our residence in India. The Nabob of Bengal, Moubaric ul Dowla, who had come down from the city of Moorshedabad, the place of his residence, on purpose to pay his respects to the Governor, was here introduced in state on board the governor's budgerow, and he attended us afterwards all the way to his own palace in the city, where our fleet arrived on the 6th. For the sake of connecting this detail of our progress up to
the

the present day, I must return again to Plassey, tho' I much fear the whole of this account will prove exceedingly uninteresting and tedious to you. At present, my dear sir, as I have no other subject to write upon, you must excuse my solely adhering to it.

From Plassey on the 4th of August, we proceeded to another small village, called Cowragatch, where we lay too for the night; — But I should remark here, the custom in travelling by water, and never to be deviated from excepting in the most pressing circumstances, is to fix your boat close to the shore every evening about sun-set, as the navigation is often interrupted by sand-banks and other impediments, which in the dark would be difficult to avoid; and at the same time the people belonging to your boats have an opportunity which should ever be granted them, of dressing their victuals on shore; for this permission is absolutely requisite if your servants are Hindoos, as they never eat on board; — Mussulmen are not so strict, and pay more regard to the cravings of
nature

nature than the religious half-starv'd Hindoo! To shew further how extremely fearful the latter cast of natives are of defilement, particularly in regard to their food, it is a constant rule with the Hindoos to throw away every thing that an European may accidentally touch, and often while cooking their food they will silently endeavour to prevent your too near approach, by drawing a circle round the spot they are occupying for that purpose; — should you perchance step over it, pollution ensues, and the meal is instantly flung away! — I am told that even the very last morsel would in similar circumstances share the same fate. !

On the 5th, we passed Raggamatty, a village pleasantly situated; the first hill I have seen in Bengal, and I fancy the only one in the whole province, was here, with a small European-built house upon it; and a Bungalow formerly inhabited by Sir Elijah Impey. In the evening of the 5th we came to another military station, named Burrampour, where a Brigade of the army is stationed. — His lordship, in his

his new capacity of Commander in chief, landed here, and attended the Parade of the different corps; when the usual compliments being paid, he re-embarked the same night, and proceeded the next morning to Moorshedabad. While the whole fleet of boats were passing through this long miserable-looking city, the Governor with part of his suite attended the nabob at his palace, where an elegant entertainment in the english stile was prepared—his lordship had the honor of a conference also with two old black ladies, relations of the nabob, called the Begums, which title denotes, I fancy, women of royal rank and dignity,—as the custom of the country forbids these good dames “to be seen of men” a curtain divided the addressers and the addressed, which rendered the ceremony rather a subject of mirth. On the 7th we again pushed on, but perhaps you’ll expect me to be more descriptive of the ancient residence of the Bengal Soubahs. — The city of Moorshedabad reaches full six miles in extent, I judge so from the time we were going through it, the Cossinbazar

river runs in the centre, and during the rains under many houses of the inhabitants: excepting here and there a tolerable building, the dwelling of an European or a principal black man, I can give you no better idea of this great City, than by comparing it to Bungate, Newark, or any other mud-built village about you, — and the country round it at this season, brings to my recollection, the forlorn appearance of Haxey commons in times of yore! when the full-swoln Vicar's-dike impatient of confinement used with hideous roar to burst its barrier; and by a wide extended deluge render that pretty rural hill, the seat of health, plenty, and content, nearly insular. On the 7th as before observed, we left this place, distant from Calcutta 192 miles by water, with a fine fair gale, which pushed us on very rapidly, and in the evening we stopped at a small village called Mahmudpour in the map; — we had the ill luck to lose two of our small craft in this day's run, overset by the carelessness and stupidity of the people in them. Colonel Ross escaped a ducking here rather narrowly,

narrowly, as he stepped out of one of these boats just in the act of her sinking. — There's never any danger to be apprehended for the safety of the black boatmen in case of accidents of this nature befalling them, from the circumstance of their partaking full as much of a watry as an earthly element; — indeed you would suppose them perfectly amphibious.

On the 8th in the evening we arrived at Sooty, near the entrance into the Ganges from the Coffinbazar river: On the 9th early in the morning got into this noble river, upon which I am at this instant scribbling, and remained near Oudanulla that night, and passed it on the 10th, and also Rajemal, where we crossed over the Ganges into a small river running nearly parallel, to avoid the prodigious rapidity of the current, supposed to run in the height of the rains, at the rate of seven or eight miles an hour in several places. It is extremely difficult to stem this astonishing stream in the rainy season, nor, can you venture to use your sails against it, without a very strong breeze in your favor; when this is not the case, ten or twelve

black fellows, who are termed Dandies in the Hindostan language, tow your boat along shore, as fast as the horses do the coal-barges in your river. These people appear to earn their wages, only three rupees per month, in the hardest and fairest manner, for when you are deprived of the wind's assistance, they will actually drag a large heavy budgerow, bigger than your Wisbich passage-boat, at the rate of near three miles an hour, from morning to evening, under the burning influence of a perpendicular sun, whose fierce rays darting upon their black sculls, they seem rather to enjoy than shun: some wear turbans, but not all; the quantities of cocoa-nut oil used by these people, and indeed by all the lower cast of natives, must in a great degree defend them from the effects of this all-powerful luminary. I have twenty of these extraordinary animals on board my pinnace, and I assure you most of them will take the water, and remain under it full as long as any Newfoundland dog! poor * Boatswain not excepted. —

* A Dog I brought from Newfoundland.

In passing Oudanulla on the 10th, we saw the traces of the Nabob, Cossim Ali's Works, which in the year 1763, Major Adams commanding the British troops at that period, attacked and carried. Rajemal has likewise the appearance of having made some figure in former times, from its very elevated situation, the remains of a Castle and other fortifications, which tho' now in a crumbling state and totally neglected, were once the direct causes of it's strength and importance.

The small river we crossed into on the 10th, is called in Rennel's Map, the Caragola Nullah. — Nullah, in Hindostan means a small stream. The 11th, 12th, and 13th were passed in this rather confined navigation, and on the 14th we struck into the Ganges near the mouth of the Coosy river. In the rainy monsoon you endeavour to keep clear of the great river as much as possible, and this you have frequent opportunities of doing by the numberless small streams branching out from and rejoining the Ganges in various parts; you may also shorten your expeditions by
water

water at this season in no small degree, if, instead of following the exact course of the river you proceed directly across the inundations,—these are absolute seas in the lower parts of the country, and at particular periods so dreadfully extended and violent, that whole families, huts, cattle, trées, &c. are involved in one general scene of ruin and destruction! Sometimes it happens that whole fields of rice, the Natives only food, are by an unusual swelling of the waters, swept away; consequently a partial, if not general famine ensues, without the timely and vigorous interposition of Government happily succeeds. We have had more than the common allowance of rain this year, but I believe no bad effects are likely to arise, tho' the streets of Dacca, a very large city have been almost entirely under water. On the 15th we again quitted the Ganges, and had recourse to another creek called the Boglipour Nullah:—we were much pleased with the situation of Mr. Adair's house, on the banks of this Nullah, and the country about it has a better claim to notice than any we have yet passed through.

Mr.

Mr. Adair is collector of the Boglipour district: in the evening we went ashore to his house, an exceeding good one, built by the famous Mr. Cleaveland, of whose character I must beg leave to give here one remarkable trait, which, in honor to his humanity, and as a proof of his spirited conduct, good sense, and amiable disposition, should be in my opinion universally known. The race of people inhabiting the Boglipour hills, are in every respect distinct from any other in the country; as they were considered by Government in the light of untameable savages, no means were left untried for bringing about their complete subjection, or indeed utter extermination. This system was for many years pursued, and tho' numbers of these unfortunate wretches were cut off by various detachments sent against them, and the greatest cruelties exercised, such as deprivation of limb, flitting, or chopping off their noses, ears, &c. yet the main object was not in the least advanced. They still, from their impregnable situation and unconquerable spirit, were as free and independent

as ever. When behold! this task seemingly so impracticable, the noble hearted and glorious Cleaveland by far different methods speedily performed. — Hostilities ceased, he contrived to get some of these people into his possession, and after using them in the kindest and most indulgent manner, sent them back with presents to the rest, and the strongest professions of his esteem and friendship; — others came, and were treated in the same manner; he then trusted himself amongst them altogether, and by the gentlest means, such as adopting their manners, customs, learning and speaking their language, &c. he, by degrees brought them to forget the ravages and cruelties undergone, and to confide even in the former authors of them. — He established a guard to attend him every where, and taught the use of the firelock to those who had so long felt the cruel effects of that weapon. Their bows and arrows were laid aside, or at least only directed against proper objects of their dext'rous aim. In short, by the almost incredible good management, resolution,

tion, and singular virtues of this young man, these people are become civilized, obedient and useful, and are now more friendly inclined towards the English, than if possible, they were in former days, inimically. There is a Battalion consisting of 800 of these Hill-people under the direction of Mr. Adair, the present collector; they are very quiet good Soldiers, tho' they are naturally short, their figures are smart and upright, with good countenances. The Governor inspected the corps, and was, I believe, well satisfied with their appearance, and discipline. I should observe one thing in the discription of these Hill-warriors, that during the time force was used against them, they retaliated upon all who fell into their power, no body could pass their mountains without the greatest risk of being murdered; and now you may go from one end to the other of the immense range of Boglipour and Rajemal hills with the certainty of being humanely and even hospitably treated. — Such is the happy reverse! and of such effect was the conciliating disposition of that ever to be la-

mented Man! whose superior virtues and uncommon merit were lost to the world almost as soon as known! their fame can never perish!

On the 16th, the day I began this letter to you, we quitted the pleasing district of Boglipour, and came once more into this prince of streams, nor shall we again deviate, I understand, during the rest of our Fresh-water voyage. In this day's run we passed a curious rock in the river, on which a Facquir has ridiculously fixed his residence; his house in the chinese stile, stands on the summit, and completely occupies the level part, so that his walks or rides cannot be very extensive. The extreme absurdity of this sect is truly a matter of astonishment; the strange uncouth figures of some, create laughter, while the distorted and filthy appearance of others, disgusts. One of these Facquirs brought a petition to the Governor at Calcutta, whose finger nails reached considerably below his wrist, and at a distance looked like pieces of cord hanging down; his arms for several years had been carried upright over his head

head, and were so fixed in that position, that it would be very difficult, if not wholly impossible, to bring them down to their proper place again! I have heard accounts relative to these people that almost exceed belief, from Gentlemen whose authority I can by no means doubt; tho' I shall for the present relinquish the subject, as in all probability, from the number of Facquirs found higher up the country, we may ourselves be more particularly acquainted with their infinite follies and absurdities!—On the 17th, we reached Monghir, above 400 miles from the presidency by water; this place contains an Invalid Garrison, stands upon a rock with a fine sporting country all round, upon the whole a preferable situation to any I have yet seen; from its charming height, salubrious air, open plains, and proximity to the Ganges, this spot appears admirably well adapted for invalids, or the immediate recovery of any sick person.—When the Bengal army consisted of only three brigades one was always stationed here; since its increase to six, Monghir has entirely been applied to the accom-

modation of the Invalid-corps, the works about it are very extensive, tho' of an old date, and from having been totally neglected since the place was taken many years ago, they do not now present a very formidable aspect. A curious circumstance I was informed of here, I cannot forbear mentioning, as it is an absolute fact—one of the Fort-bastions projecting a good way into the river, where the stream has surprizing force and rapidity, occasions a sort of whirlpool, into which cattle, deer, buffalos, and even tygers, in attempting to cross the Ganges higher up, and failing in their endeavours to stem the current, have been at times precipitated! I may also add, the lifeless Hindoo, whose religion causes him to be soufed into the Ganges as soon as breath's departed, arrested in his course to the ocean by this Charibdian Vortex, is suddenly ingulphed, whirled round, and thrown up again! This practice followed by the lower casts of Hindoos is ever disgusting and frequently distressing, as its no unusual thing to happen in your progress
up

up the river, to pass close to bodies floating down which have been dreadfully mangled by fish and birds, nay sometimes even the near approach of your boat does not induce the crow or vulture to quit its prey! On the 18th, leaving Monghir, with a fine brisk gale we made great progress in our route to Patna, the next halting-place;—and on the 19th, favored by the same wind we reached the small village of Ponerack, within 43 miles of the Great and ancient city of Patna; as we shall probably get there to-morrow evening, I delay closing this insignificant Journal, that I may be able to send the latest accounts from thence;—the Governor intends remaining a few days there, to finish his Europe dispatches, by the Ravensworth Indiaman. I shall take the liberty of inserting this among them.—Should my dearest Parents, feel amused in the smallest degree by this bare recital of dates, arrivals at, and departures from, different places, in the course of the present Expedition, I shall receive infinite satisfaction.—If my endeavours fail, which God forbid!

bid!—I must comfort myself with the reflection of having done my best to promote their entertainment and happiness.
Patna 21st, August,

We arrived here this morning and shall remain two or three days to look about us, and refit some of our squadron, which have proved leaky; my pinnace in particular must undergo a thorough repair, notwithstanding she had a new bottom put in just before I bought her,—she was a remarkable cheap purchase, I only gave 690 rupees, and I'm told in building she cost 1500 rupees. Patna has nothing very beautiful or interesting in its site or appearance;—it stands close upon the western shore of the Ganges, with a french and dutch factory, and some few good houses interspersed among mud huts; this description will answer for every city in Hindostan, Calcutta excepted. I must now close my dispatches, as the Governor's are undergoing the same operation:—we are now 514 miles from the presidency, near half our voyage completed; when we return I may perhaps send you the
remainder

remainder of this jaunt. We are all well,
and well-pleased with the success of our
plans so far; — God grant this may find
you and my dear mother in perfect health,
so prays,

your dutiful

and affectionate

S O N.

L E T T E R II.

Futty-Ghur, Oct. 17th 1787.

MY DEAREST PARENT,

IN my letter by the Ravensworth Indi-
aman, dated the latter end of last August,
I informed you of our safe arrival at
Patna, and the military station of Dinapore.
I now proceed to make a fresh trial of
your patience, by relating our progress
from those places to the "Ne plus ultra"
of our Expedition, Futty-Ghur. You will
find

find in the course of my Journal, that, at one time we deviated considerably, by deserting our boats at Allahabad, and proceeding on by land to the city of Lucknow; — as this circumstance has afforded me an opportunity of inspecting in some degree the manners and customs of an Eastern Court, I shall hereafter dwell more particularly upon it.

You will please to observe, my dear Sir, that on the 24th of August, we departed from Dinapore with all our numerous fleet, proposing to reach Benares with all possible dispatch; — In this we succeeded admirably by the well-timed assistance of a favourable gale from the eastward. — On the 25th we arrived in the evening, at a small invalid garrison'd fort, called Buxar, as you'll see in Rennel's map, — a place rendered famous from a battle fought near it, in, I believe, 1764, between the company's forces, and the Nabob Vizier Sujah Dowlah, in which, the latter suffered a total defeat, after an obstinate engagement: the fort is prettily placed upon a green hill, and a good country about it, tho' it
does

does not appear of much strength, except against a native army. The progress we made the last two days, was really astonishing, having sailed near 80 miles in that time, against a violent stream, running at least five miles an hour. On the 26th, we reached Gousspour,—but on the 27th, 28th, and 29th, our motions were hardly progressive, owing to an exceeding heavy fall of rain, which rendered the current so prodigiously rapid, that to gain ground at all was a matter of infinite labour and difficulty. On the 30th, we passed the mouth of the Goomty river, which falls into the Ganges, about thirty miles below Benares:—this river, taking its rise from the Commow Hills, runs through the heart of the province of Lucknow, the city of that name being situated on its banks;—only small vessels can navigate this stream, which is, I believe, rated the least considerable of many others, that, in various parts rushing into the Ganges, add so greatly to its size and rapidity. — “Rennel” mentions among others, the Coofy, the Gunduck, the Soane, the

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Gogra,

Gogra, and the Jumna, the last of which Rivers, appeared as we passed the mouth, to be nearly as broad as the Ganges itself; but any of them, in any other country, would be termed immense! It is curious to cast an eye over the map and at this very moment, to find ourselves with a fleet of large vessels, in the very heart of the country, and at an equal distance from the sea, whether we direct our course to the gulf of Cambay, or back again to the mouth of the Hooghly! The scale of this part of Asia, is certainly beyond all measure, grand! and extensive! — Our own little Island would lose much, nay, would sink to nothing, by a comparison! On the evening of the 31st, we reached Benares, near 700 miles from Calcutta, — here we staid some days, as the Governor was engaged in matters of importance relative to this Zemmidary. The day after our arrival, the whole family attended the Governor on a visit to the Shaw Zadah, or Heir-apparent to the Mogul Empire: the meeting between his Lordship and the Prince was both singular and entertaining;

the

the high rank of the former making it totally different from all other meetings: — When Mr. Hastings saw the Prince in 1784, he was obliged to undergo several disagreeable forms and ceremonies, nay, I may say indignities, for a Governor general to yield to, — such as going into the presence with his shoes off, sitting behind the Prince on his Elephant, and fanning him, &c. — All this was omitted upon the present occasion; his Lordship went into the Imperial presence with his shoes on, and his family in boots, — nor, did he drive away the flies from the princely visage: the form we observed, was literally the following. — “ The Governor approaching the Musnud first, made three salamns, or inclinations of the head, and presented to the Prince, a Nuzzur of fifty Gold-mohurs on a white handkerchief, which was instantly accepted, then making three more salamns, he sat down close by him, — we all in turn did the same, being introduced by name, and giving Nuzzurs of inferior value.” After a short conversation between the principals, in Persian,

upon indifferent subjects, carried on by an interpreter, the Prince took off his own drefs, and put it over the Governor's. — It confifted of a beautiful perfian robe or upper garment, a turban with precious ftones, and fword; — really the whole together had a very graceful and becoming appearance, tho' the Governor I fancy did not quite approve the additional heat it occafioned, as the day unfortunately was a remarkable hot one: we all withdrew to an adjoining apartment, after this firft ceremony, and each had a drefs, called a Kelaut, according to his rank, put on him; we then returned to the prefence, falaming in the fame ftile, and going up to the Prince refpectfully, gave him a fecond Nuzzur, he then with his own imperial fingers, faftened a fprig of ftones, not precious I believe, upon our turbans, and girded a fword acrofs our fhoulders; this compliment occafioned a third Nuzzur, and here the bufinefs ended. My Kelaut, which as well as all the others, the Company provides, was worth about 1000 or 1200 rupees; — you may perhaps fee it,
if

if it holds together a few years. Some of these Dresses are exceedingly pretty, but rather more calculated for an effeminate Asiatick, than an Englishman. — The Prince returned the Governor's visit, the next day, and seemed wonderfully pleased with a great variety of european presents, that had been bought for him at Calcutta, — particularly some english guns and pistols, one of which with a hair-spring lock, he prized above all, and kept snapping it in a childish way, for a long time. The day we left Benares, the Governor and his suite dined with him at his palace, the ancient residence of poor Cheit Sing, whom you have lately heard so much about: as we had previously sent our own cooks, not choosing to trust entirely to Hindostan cookery, we dined admirably; and in the evening returned to our boats, the Prince insisting upon the Governor's going all the way on board in his own boat, with the Imperial Colours flying: — when arrived at the Sunnamooky, his lordship's vessel, he went into her cabin for a short time,

and

and having expressed great admiration at her size and convenience, and received a present of an exceeding large perspective, he took his leave and went ashore, seemingly in high good humour, from the great attentions paid him. — I have been more particular in describing the above interview, from the little probability of such ceremony being again repeated, and also from the singular situation this unfortunate heir to Timur's Imperial house is placed in. — His very bread, at this period depends upon our Government. In Mr. Hastings's Account of "Transactions at Benares in 1781," you will find a full description of this Prince: — and his escape from Delhi, is curious, written by himself. — I shall only mention his person, and take my leave of him. He is of middle stature, rather inclined to be fat, as indeed all great black men wish to be, his complexion very dark, I may say black indeed, without deviating widely from the truth, nor has he in the least the looks of royalty, but rather those of an inferior cast; his age near 40, his countenance appeared
 most

most to advantage while the gold mohurs were offering, to the goodness of which, he seemed to pay unusual attention. — The city of Benares in point of wealth, costly buildings, and number of inhabitants, is classed, I believe, in the first rank of those remaining in Hindostan, in the possession of the Hindoos. The various temples dedicated to innumerable deities, would make a stranger suppose upon entering the suburbs of this city, that all the religious men in the country were herein collected; they centre here from all quarters, as they can worship their gods in peace and quietness under a mild and merciful Government. At the distance of eight miles in the approach by water, the eye is attracted by the view of two lofty minarets, erected by order of the Emperor Aurungzebe, on the foundation of an Hindoo Temple, which seems as if he meant to have insulted their religion to the utmost of his power, in raising these large mahometan Piles, upon such sacred Ruins! We were told the view of the city and country from the tops of these beautiful towers,

towers, would well repay us for the trouble of mounting, but either business, or want of time, prevented our making the trial. Benares extends above two miles along the banks of the Ganges, and about a mile inland. Many of the houses are remarkably high, some even six and seven stories, built of a sort of stone resembling the Portland, which abounds in this part of the country: but the streets are so dreadfully narrow, where these lofty buildings are situated, that two Palankeens can scarce pass: if two Elephants chance to meet, one is obliged to retreat as well as he can to the first opening. From the confined plan this city is built upon, the consequence is, that the air deprived of free circulation becomes putrid, and produces amongst the inhabitants, malignant fevers and severe bilious obstructions. — The Europeans therefore have wisely chosen to fix their places of residence at some distance from it, on an open plain, where they can breathe a pure untainted atmosphere. The Resident whose house we were at during our stay, and his Assistants,

sistant's have very pleasant Bungalows upon the abovementioned spot, and seem to enjoy all the comforts of life in a plentiful degree. I cannot forbear mentioning a curious Character resident in this city; he is a brother of the Vizier's, his name Saadut Ally, a man much liked by the English, from his so entirely adopting their manners. — If you hunt with him, his pack I'm told is so very well managed that you may fancy yourself with "Lord Fitzwilliam," or "Mr. Mennel." He always rides in cap and boots, leather breeches, &c. and upon the most capital horses. If you dine or sup with him, the same appearance of every thing "English" strikes you: — and to complete it, he is now, I'm told, learning our language. — I rather think my memory has failed me here, and that I have already spoken of this singular man, if so, I beg pardon for introducing a second description of him. Now to proceed with the detail of our progressive motions towards the Vizier's capital.

On the morning of the 5th of September, we quitted Benares, and made very slow

progress that day and the next, from the wind being against us, and the tracking ground bad. On the 7th we passed Chunar-Ghur, where a Brigade of the army is constantly stationed, for the protection of this valuable Zemmdary and the country adjacent.—The Governor landed early in the morning, only for a few hours, as he intended inspecting the state of the Troops here, more narrowly on his return down.—He just looked at the European Regiment belonging to this garrison, who have more the appearance of scare-crows, than soldiers! several having been in the country from 25 to 30 years! — On passing this place, you get out of the Company's provinces, and in consequence they allow you an increase of pay, 'till you return within them again; the addition to Aid de Camps is very trifling, only six rupees per day, nor shall we receive it longer than two months, as I dare say before the expiration of that period, the Governor will have repassed the boundary. On the 8th, we passed the large town of Mizapore, a place famous for the manu-
factory

factory of a pretty sort of carpets, and also as a general mart for all goods, that go from the eastern to the western parts of India, particularly, from Bengal to Surat, Bombay, &c. — Of late years, this trade has diminished considerably, and of course the consequence of Mizapore. On the 9th, we passed a large pile of wood, close to the edge of the river, just at breakfast-time, upon which, a Hindoo was burning, several of his cast sitting round with the most perfect unconcern, merely to take care the fire was properly kept up: I fancy the savage custom of the wife burning with her husband, is now seldom observed, at least since my arrival, I have neither seen or heard of this diabolical ceremony taking place: — Do'nt you think, my dear Sir, our friend F—— would have enjoyed the above scene mightily? as I well remember he is fond to a degree of unusual sights, nor does a bad smell much distress his olfactory nerves! — as for myself, I must own my breakfast went down better after I had lost the scent of this roasting Hindoo! nor do I ever

with at the same season to pop upon such game again. — On the 10th we were informed the Nabob Vizier was near us encamped: and on the 11th in the evening, his confidential servants, Hyder Beg Rhawn, and Hussen Refa Rhawn, came on board the governor's budgerow to report the arrival of their Master at a place called Joofy, within a few miles of Allahabad, for the sole purpose of attending the Governor to Lucknow. — The Vizier brought a retinue of at least 30000 Men, and near 300 Elephants, besides Camels, led horses, &c; — altogether they presented to us a sight as uncommon as it was grand and entertaining. Making little progress on the 12th, we did not reach the vizier's encampment till the 13th when we all landed, and proceeded upon Elephants and in Palankeens to a large tent pitched for the Governor: here, every body was introduced to the Vizier, who seemed wonderfully delighted with his new acquaintance, particularly as he well knew our errand was not, as formerly, to diminish his lacks, His figure is rather a curious one, and
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put me much in mind of a pair of dutch nut-crackers; — very short, fat, and though a young man, has lost all his teeth, this makes him splutter much in speaking, which he does without ceasing, nor can he ever sit still for a moment, but partakes most fully of perpetual motion. — The meeting between him and our Governor-general brought to my recollection, Shakspeare's description of Harry the 8th's conference with Francis the first, I believe, in the plains of Ardres; — If it is lawful upon this event, "*parvis componere magna*"!

We remained in camp at Joofy till the 17th of September, the badness of the weather preventing our intended operations. — The Prince joined us from Benares, two days before we marched, and the Governor went with the Vizier, to pay him a formal visit. We all sat upon the ground, taylor-like; the Vizier presented him with an handful of gold-mohurs, and he in return obtained a Kelaut from the Prince, — The exchange was considerably in favour of his Royal Highness. On the 17th, we moved a short distance, and
encamped

encamped again;—The Prince remained behind, as he proposed going by another road to Furruckabad, to meet us there. As we had three different modes of conveyance, our marches were not very fatiguing, we never went above 16 miles a day, and got to our ground to an excellent breakfast, generally before eight o'clock.—Each of us had one horse, which we brought from Calcutta, and the Vizier sent an Elephant to every gentleman in his lordship's family, for his sole use and accommodation, as long as he remained in his dominions;—some of these noble Animals had Howdahs, open seats, upon them, and others had Umbarees, or covered seats; I had one of the latter, and was never more at my ease in my life. Our baggage was conveyed by a set of men called Coolies, provided also by the Vizier, and we had our palenkeens to retire to, if the motion of the horse or elephant, at any time became disagreeable; in this manner we proceeded nine days, thro' rather a dismal-looking country, few inhabitants, and less cultivation. —

On the 26th we arrived at Lucknow, after marching about 130 miles. We kill'd some wild peacocks, and black partridge, on the way, the former a most beautiful bird, of much superior plumage to those in England, and esteemed when young, delicate eating,—the latter a beautiful bird also, but of no flavor when dressed: no game that I have tasted in India, can be compared in my opinion, to European;—all dry, insipid and stringy; the best birds in the country are snipe and teal, these in season are really excellent. Lucknow, a place now well known in the British Senate, is about 700 miles by land, and about 950 by water from Calcutta;—a large, dirty city, with narrow streets, form'd chiefly of mud-houses, standing upon an immense space of ground on the banks of the Goomty, with a prodigious palace of the Vizier's in the middle of it, is all the description, I can give you, of this famous capital. The English Resident lives out of the town, and with the assistance of other Companies servants fixed here, lodged us all most comfortably. Some of the Europeans

Europeans, old Asiatics! entertained us here, in a stile far superior to any I've yet met with; some of their dwelling-houses are delightful spots, where, by fountains and other artificial water-works, the climate is so far overcome, that they can boast of being cool in the hottest weather. In the winter large fires are truly acceptable, for the northerly winds blow here with great keenness in December and January. The two last days of the Governor's stay at Lucknow, the Vizier particularly requested him to spend in one of his palaces, prepared most elegantly for his reception; it was the same Mr. Hastings occupied in 1784, and contained apartments for all the family. — As a black man's ideas, tho' a Prince, of comfort and convenience are so widely different from our own, we did not, you may be assured gain, by this change of quarters, on the contrary we had to regret the quitting a pretty rural situation, to be immured between high walls in the centre of a nasty Bazar, or public market; deprived of our morning rides, and fresh air! — But the compliment of acquiescing
with

with the Vizier's propofal was neceffary, tho' the fhortnefs of its duration we all rejoiced at. — The Vizier poffeffes feveral palaces, fome of them immense piles of building, with gilded cupolas and other coftly ornaments, he has one built entirely of ftone, really of fine effect, yet he prefers to all thefe princely refidences, a finall Bungalow on the River, the enlarging of which employs a good deal of his time and attention: his other chief amufements, confift in horfe-racing, and cockfighting! exalted occupations for the prince of fuch an Empire! He is very careful of his money at thefe diverfions, and never lofes much, for he leaves off betting the moment fortune fails him; if he wins from an European, and is not paid immediately, his own plan always if he lofes a bet, a man is fent the next morning with a broom, and has orders to fweep before the gentleman's door till the debt is liquidated! — Surely this would be an admirable cuftom among our Black-legs at home! the adoption of it, might perhaps in fome degree, deter our young men from, run-

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ning headlong down that worst, and most fatal stream of dissipation, gambling! as there certainly is some shame attending this mode of exacting payment. The daily contemplation of the finest horses in the universe, is another source of pleasure to the Vizier, they are led before him richly caparisoned, and most curiously painted: he sent several for the governor's inspection, many of which were nearly too fat to walk, but extremely beautiful: above 1000 of these noble animals are kept merely to look at, as he never rides. This attachment of his to horse-flesh, is peculiarly unfortunate for the English, for he does not scruple to lay his hands on all passing through his dominions, and as he invariably picks out the best, and gives any price to the dealer, it seldom happens that horses of any real value or good quality reach Calcutta; large sums are expected and generally given for those few that do come down; we have therefore to thank his highness as the primary cause of horses being scarce, of inferior cast, and high priced! all the effects of this cruel monopoly

nopoly! The natives are very partial to the custom of painting their horses, particularly those meant for show — I have seen them all the colours of the rainbow, some really produce a grand, though singular effect. On the march to Lucknow, I bought from a black merchant one of these finely decorated animals, not for the sake of his colour, which was a bright orange, with a red flaming tail! but because his paces were excellent, and his price moderate; I have been trying ever since to rub the paint off him, without success, and I dare say from the method used in laying it on, he will arrive painted at Calcutta. The Vizier has a very large collection of Elephants, one of which is esteemed the tallest in Hindostan, probably in the whole world! I was told he had near 800 for various purposes, a vast property for one man! many of these useful animals from their great size and strength, are worth considerable sums, I believe the common average price for a good Elephant, is from 5000 to 6000 rupees: We saw a she-one, on the march to Lucknow, above

100 years old, she was exceedingly large, but ill-tempered; this is seldom the case, nothing can equal in general the good-nature, sense, and docility of this most extraordinary animal; they are sometimes used for putting criminals to death, and it is with the greatest difficulty these creatures are forced to inflict the punishment, which they at last do, by treading backwards upon the unhappy wretches, and crushing them to atoms instantaneously; but they will never consent to step forwards upon what they are thus employed to destroy: you may almost infer from this, that they are ashamed to exert their astonishing strength over the human species; or at least, that they disdain to behold the dreadful effects of it, when compelled to exercise it upon such melancholy occasions. At particular seasons, the Vizier has Elephant-fights at Lucknow; — these engagements, which you would imagine, from the size and powers of the combatants, must end in the most shocking manner, are very speedily decided, for one is sure to quit his ground after giving and receiving a few blows, nor is there the smallest diversion

version attending it: they are so naturally averse to quarrel with each other, that the only mode of raising their anger consists in the introduction of a female, even then, the rage of the weakest soon subsides. — The generosity of these noble quadrupeds is, I'm told, in many instances highly conspicuous; Indeed I have myself observed with vast pleasure the infinite care taken by them, in their footsteps, when obliged to move among a crowd of people, so fearful are they of hurting any creature, they can possibly avoid; still there are some curious stories, very well authenticated, which prove the goodness of their memory, if at any period they have suffered a wanton injury: their spirit in this case never permits them to forget or forgive, — “*Manet alta mente repostum*” — and the first fair opportunity, they inflict their own punishment, upon the heedless offender. My partiality for the Elephant the Vizier lent me on the march was so great, that I generally fed him with bread every evening, this he took out of my hand, in the most quiet manner, — poor animal! it was the only
tribute.

tribute of gratitude I could pay him, for the secure conveyance he afforded me, my servant and baggage, through the very worst roads I ever saw in my life! Some anecdotes I have heard of these creatures, ~~which~~ as in relation they may appear rather extraordinary, I beg leave to decline saying more upon the subject, until I am able to vouch personally for the goodness of my authority.

On the 4th of October, we again set forward from Lucknow, and reached our boats in four days easy marching, which had been previously ordered to assemble at a place, called in the map, Nannamow, we embarked immediately and arrived at Futty-Ghur the 12th, here we began our military duties in the field, which lasted at that station five days, in that time the Governor inspected the whole brigade on duty there, separately and collectively, and on the 18th we departed for Cawnpore, the next military post in our way down to the presidency. From this station I am now writing, and shall probably close this scrambling journal. While at Futty-Ghur,

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we saw the Prince again, who seems to be determined to advance as far as Delhi for the purpose of succouring his Father, and extricating him out of the power of the Mharattas. Various are the conjectures in consequence of the Shaw Zadah's resolution, tho' I think most people seem to agree in the opinion, that he durst not quit the Viziers dominions; — he is a poor Creature! and can do no good wherever he goes! We spent one day with Mr. Willes, the resident at Furruckabad, 6 miles from Futty-Ghur, and were most pleasantly entertained; he is a son of the late Judge Willes, and has been stationed in that city above four years, but is now going to be removed, as the Vizier himself takes the whole management of his affairs in this district, the Nabob of which is tributary to him: this said Nabob, whose name is, "Mozuffer Jung", is a man of the most infamous character; and his capital, and indeed his whole country, serves as an harbour to thieves and rascals of every denomination, who plunder, and very often murder persons close to
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the cantonments of the army: even the Resident whenever he moves after sunset is obliged to be surrounded by a strong guard, nor is it an uncommon event for officers to be intercepted by these villains, who are generally well-armed, should they happen to stay at a late hour, any distance from their cantonments. A desperate party of these Patans, about two years ago, had the audacity to attack by night the cavalry quarters, at Futti-Ghur, and I believe some mischief ensued previous to their repulse. This proves their enterprising spirit, as near 4000 regular troops were within a mile! If at any time government exasperated by their predatory excursions have thought it necessary to put troops in motion against them, they instantly retire to their mud forts and other strong holds, and when attacked, commonly make an obstinate defence: but should they be subdued, their forts levelled and their habitations destroyed, still, in spite of defeats and losses, they return again, as soon as the Company's forces are removed, to inhabit the same spots, from whence they have been driven, and soon become

as daring and troublesome as ever. The depredations of these Patans, though almost daily committed under the very nose of the Nabob of Furruckabad, (for sometimes they rob and murder even in his Capital) are seldom noticed by him, if they are, it proceeds from the exertions of our Resident there. — He has indeed great merit for the adoption of plans during his short residence in the Nabob's country, to preserve the tranquility, and encrease the revenues, of it: now, at his removal, it is more than probable every thing will revert to its original state of anarchy and confusion. Nothing good in word or deed can be expected from the Nabob himself, Mozuffer Jung, as he is said to be destitute of every principle that adorns, and possessed of all that deforms human nature! One circumstance I shall relate as a well known truth, which will sufficiently prove the above assertion, and give you some idea of this man's detestable Character. — When I was at Mr. Willes's house, a younger brother of this Nabob's came to pay his respects to the Governor,

and had the appearance of a mild inoffensive man, which is indeed his true disposition. From a pretended jealousy, or rather I may call it from motives of savage cruelty, the Nabob wished some time ago to have this young man murdered! His own brother! — Fortunately it was prevented by the interference of our Government, and ever since, this poor creature has lived close to the house, and under the eye of the Company's Resident, nor will he be left to the mercy of his barbarous brother when Mr. Willes quits his station, for the Company still extend their generous protection to him by removing him to Benares, and there he may rest in safety, and offer up his daily prayers for the prosperity of his kind benefactors! — The Nabob delights so much in blood, that he is not scrupulous of committing murder himself! Sometime ago, a poor Facquir was cut to pieces by him, in the most inhuman manner by all accounts. The city of Furruckabad bears so near a resemblance to all the cities I've seen in Hindostan, that I shall
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take no notice of it, except in observing that in going through it, you pass under nine large brick gateways, which, with the Nabob's palace, another overgrown brick edifice, appear to have had their foundations laid before the flood! A mud wall running round some part of the town constitutes the whole defence. The district of Furruckabad, according to Rennel's map, extends above 30 miles, is situated on the western banks of the Ganges, nearly in the centre of the Vizier's dominions, who collects four or five lacks per annum from it, as a tributary. — The tribe of Patan Rohillas inhabiting this little province, are naturally a fine brave race, and under an humane and settled Government would soon become industrious, rich, and happy; they possess by nature the means abundantly, an extreme rich soil, a mild and regular climate, and its proximity to the Ganges is another very favorable circumstance, as their manufactures, and overplus grain, may be speedily conveyed by that useful stream to any markets they please to send them to. But whatever

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their local advantages may be, under the iron hand of cruel despotism, which ever oppresses the quiet and industrious subject, and encourages the riotous and idle, none of these can possibly have due effect, or essentially benefit the possessors. The mal-administration of the present Nabob, has reduced his country to such a wretched state, that all law seems totally set aside; and the occupations of the Inhabitants, consist for the most part in plundering and often murdering those who unhappily fall in their way! either strangers, or often their own country men!—Instead of cultivating their lands, improving their manufactures, or in short, fulfilling in any degree the duties of moral and religious society; such is the situation of the Patan Rohillas, and as our connexion with them is now nearly at an end, such probably will be their situation for many years to come, especially if the monster, their present Prince, is favored with length of days! What a glorious comparison the English traveller may make on revisiting the Company's provinces, after observing the state of those belonging

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ing to other powers! How much to the honor and credit of our Government!—how highly to the dignity and importance of the British Empire! In our own dominions we have the satisfaction of beholding people, protected in their persons and property by a mild and just government, reaping the fruits of industry in peace and happiness! Each province exhibiting a beautiful scene of the richest cultivation!—Bengal in particular, in which almost every yard of earth produces something to the Ryot, or Farmer. Within our own limits, an Englishman may with infinite pleasure and secret pride, contemplate the glorious effects of humane laws, liberal maxims, wise counsels, vigorous measures.

November 6th, 1787.

But to return again to our operations by land and water, from which I have made rather a long digression—It was my intention to have closed this letter from Cawnpore but, upon further enquiry, I found no ship would sail before the beginning of December for Europe, so I determined to
keep

Keep scribbling on, and not affix my seal till the last moment. The same military movements took place at Cawnpore in every respect, and equally, I believe, to the satisfaction of the Commander in chief; we left that station the 26th of October after a stay of five days, and on the 29th, reached Allahabad. Here we landed and rode to the fort thro' a fine rich country, owing probably to its having been formerly in possession of the Company. The fort of Allahabad, taken from Sujah Dowla in 1765, and restored to his son the present Vizier in 1773, is reckoned the best fortification in all his dominions; this may be truth, but rest assured bad is the best, nor could this hold out three days against English Artillery; the walls are very lofty and strong built, and those works added by order of our Government are in good condition, the rest seem verging to decay and ruin. — As to its situation, I do not think an happier spot could have been chosen; for at a southern peninsula of the Dooab, (the country so called lies between

between the Ganges and the Jumna, where these two rivers unite their waters) this fort stands, equally commanding both channels, and the country round; it incloses a large pile of building, called the palace! wherein the King resided when under our protection, but I saw nothing worthy of remark in its construction, except here and there a tessellated wall and pavement, we breakfasted in a small octagon tower in this palace, which commands a noble prospect of the rivers and parts adjacent. The Killahdar, or black Governor of the fort, seemed very proud of the honor done him, as well as of his command, and on our arrival and departure paid the usual salutes, though evidently at the risk of his guns, gunners and walls!—Leaving this place the same morning we proceeded downwards, and on the evening of the 31st, got sight of Chunar; only part of a brigade are stationed here, the rest being on detachments at various places in the neighbourhood. The fort of Chunar stands on a very high rock, difficult on all sides of access: this is one of
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the strongest ports, Fort-william excepted, belonging to the Company, and as you approach it by water seems a second Gibraltar:—we staid here two days, the Governor having reviewed four battalions in that time, and on the 3d of November dropped down to Benares, only 18 miles from Chunar, where Mr. Duncan the Resident received us most hospitably. As I have before attempted a faint description of this immense city, I shall only observe that during a stay of three days we found ourselves possessed of resolution and activity sufficient for the attempt of ascending the minarets of the Emperor Aurungzebe; the cold weather, now completely set in, assisted our exertions upon this occasion not a little: after mounting about 130 exceeding high steps, we were amply recompensed by a most comprehensive view of the city below; the Ganges here beautifully meandering, and a rich rural scene displayed on both its banks, we descended well pleased with the prospect, and without grumbling at the trouble we had taken, just after dinner. The day before

before the Governor quitted Benares, he dined with Saadut Ally, the English Nabob, as I term him; of this man's character I have already given some traits, and also of his family; his entertainment did not intirely fulfil the expectations the company had been taught to form of his stile of living, as the dinner was by no means good, and his wine execrable; unfortunately neither were, as he probably intended they should be, "a-la-mode Anglois":—However I may fairly add in support of his imitative zeal, that he regained in his kennel all the credit he lost at his table, and without any exception he can boast of possessing the best pack of fox-hounds in India! I hunted with them one morning, and was much pleased with their appearance and behaviour; his horses are excellent, all in English saddles and bridles, his huntsman, to whom he gives 20l. per month! in livery!—this man is a low European, formerly belonging, I should suppose from his looks, to a stable at Newmarket, tho' most likely a jail was the last place of

his abode. If I was a supernumerary Officer in this country, I really believe, I should push, in case of a vacancy, for this honorable post of huntsman to his highness the Nabob Saadut Ally, Khawn, Behander! very high sounding and pompous truly! — no bad catch for a half-pay subaltern on two shillings a day! A gentleman who hunts and lives in habits of friendship with this sporting Asiatick Prince, shewed me a note, written by him in very tolerable English, to acquaint him of the time and place where the hounds threw off. Quere? whether this would not puzzle some of our English squires? as they are not esteemed in general men of Letters, tho' undoubtedly good sportsmen, and I rather am of opinion the writing even tolerable English, might prove a very difficult task for some of these hedge and ditch-heroes!

Dinapore Cantonments,

Nov. 10th, 1787.

On the 6th of November, we left Benares, and on the 8th repassed the small fort of Buxar, already taken notice of, in the former part of this Journal. — His
 Lordship

Lordship, peculiarly attentive in avoiding the loss of time during the whole Expedition, pushed forward before day-light on the 8th, and had inspected the works and Gar-rison, before the fleet arrived. A very fast sailing Canoe-built boat, rowing twenty-eight oars, which attended the Governor's budgerow constantly, proved extremely useful upon all these sudden emergencies. This convenient little vessel was always dispatched when the dinner budgerow hoisted her daily signal, to bring up all stragglers, by which means those unfortunate heroes who had bad-going pinnaces, or budgerows, were often prevented the hard necessity of a bread and cheese diet.

Monghir November 16th, 1787.

Landing at Dinapore on the Morning of the 10th, the Governor in two days inspected all the Troops cantoned there.— Having civil business at Patna, within six miles of Dinapore, he staid the same time at that place, dining one day with the Revenue Collector, and the next, with the Commercial Resident. While at Dinapore, we lived with Colonel Macleod who com-

mands the 73d Highland Regiment, and has a most noble house in the cantonment. Leaving Patna, (which I before described as a very large and wealthy city, on my first viewing it in our progress up) on the 14th, we proceeded in two days to the invalid station of Monghir. — While at Patna, accounts arrived of a dreadful hurricane in and about Calcutta, ~~and~~ damage has ensued to a very considerable amount, — but thank God! few lives have been lost in proportion to the number of boats and vessels destroyed, houses unroofed, and huts blown down. I have heard of only one European drowned, a Mr. Bolts, whose boat went down in the River; — the rest are natives. — Most of the Indiamen at Diamond Harbour were driven ashore, and one, the Thetis, lost her mainmast; all have been got off with trifling damage. The storm was felt in a small degree as high as Patna, 500 miles from Calcutta: it has occasioned a temporary scarcity of rice in some parts of Bengal; near 5000 rice-boats being sunk by it, before they had discharged their

their cargoes. This inconvenience will be speedily removed, as many up-country vessels are pushing with supplies of rice for the presidency, and I was told, the province of Bahar, especially the southern districts, is this season absolutely glutted with that most necessary commodity. The honorable Company, who might have experienced very serious losses in the late storm, have fortunately escaped without any ~~worth~~ mentioning. Individuals have been great sufferers, Europeans as well as Natives, some, I fear, to a ruinous amount. It is usually the case, that violent squalls of wind attend the change of the monsoon, but seldom encrease to the alarming height, or continue so destructively long as those felt on the 1st and 2d Instant.

Nov. 18th Opposite Rajemal Hills.

We made a very short stay at that sweet spot Monghir, the Governor having only a few hours business to transact with the Engineer relative to the erection of new works, storehouses, &c. as a grand depot is, I believe, intended here for the upper stations of the army, which design the peculiar

eular situation of Monghir, favors extremely. Just, previous to our departure from it on the 16th, a very remarkable event occurred, worthy in my opinion of a place in this Journal; while we were at breakfast with Colonel Berrington the Commanding-officer, a pretty large Tyger, with which kind of wild beast the country about Monghir abounds, was brought for our inspection, by some people who had slain him close under the walls of the fort,—It appeared upon enquiry that this savage animal had been first discovered in the river, into which he might have fallen by accident; or perhaps, as they sometimes do, was attempting to cross it in search of prey. Some people seeing him in this embarrassed situation boldly pushed after him in boats, with guns, bows and arrows, &c. and firing several shot drove him over towards the garrison, where, upon his crawling ashore, more foes were ready to receive him, this they did so effectually, that after being hit thrice in the head with balls, and with two arrows sticking in his body, the poor beast retreated to the water, and

roaring

roaring horribly, fell into it, and died; though forely wounded when he landed, he made to the last moment feeble attempts to spring upon his antagonists, this occasioned a frequent scrambling among the crowds of spectators to get out of his way, and even after breath had departed, many of the Sepoys were so fearful of his coming to life again, that they nearly cut off his head with their swords; thus ended this memorable conflict, which some of our party were fortunate enough to view, as they walked round the walls of the fort. Your old acquaintance, Captain Haldane, was standing on a bastion at the time of the action, and he declared it was altogether the noblest sight he ever beheld; by his description the tyger swam very bold and erect, when a shot struck him, he roared dreadfully and sprang a prodigious height out of the water; add to this, the shore and fort walls lined with people, a multitude of boats rowing round him, vollies firing in every direction at this enemy of the human species, and every time he sprang forward upon

a shot taking place, loud huzzas and discordant shouts echoed from every quarter! Neither the Governor or Colonel Ross, were present at this grand spectacle; as for myself, though at first not a little chagrined at losing the exhibition of it, (for you may suppose the manner in which this creature lost his life does not often occur) yet upon reflecting how totally impossible it was for an earthly being to exist in two places at the same moment of time, I became perfectly satisfied. To explain what I here allude to, it is necessary for me to observe that on the morning this strange occurrence happened, I had gone out at day-break with a gentleman of our family to see a most extraordinary well, situated about 5 miles from Monghir: this great natural curiosity is called by the natives the Seetacoon well, its water so exceedingly hot, that I was very glad to withdraw my hand instantly on dipping it in, and I am told tea has been made, and eggs boiled on the spot, this experiment we did not try, though I firmly believe the practicability

of it; a constant steam arises as from a boiling cauldron, with the same bubbling noise — a square wall surrounds it to prevent dirt falling in, but at top its exposed to the weather. Its remarkable, that another well, close to this, should be nearly cold! — Every body drinks the Sectacon water in preference to all others, and many people send boats and jars to be filled at this spring, (for it keeps sweet a long time) several hundred miles from different parts of the Company's provinces: we generally are supplied with it, and I think it superior far to any other water I've tasted in India, in sweetness and transparency.

Burrampore Cantonments near Moorshedabad, November the 22d, 1787.

The people whose care this valuable spring is under, can give no regular tradition concerning it, they only say, "its peculiar quality was discovered above 200 years ago, and that the water encreases gradually in heat during the cold months, and diminishes in the hot"; yet I've heard this seeming inconsistency contradicted by

an officer formerly on duty here, and had been a frequent visitor at the well, he told me "he never recollected finding any alteration in the state of the water, and believed it to possess an equal degree of heat at all seasons";—A story is told of an Hindoo woman, of high cast, falling into this stygian lake some years ago while she was performing some religious ceremony too near the edge; her death, as you may imagine, was instant:—the road from the fort to the well, lies through the pleasantest country I've yet seen in India, on one side the roughest rocks towering to the skies form a scene romantick in the extreme, on the other, rich fields of cultivation among which are here and there interspersed in the happiest manner, numberless cottages, a few large bungalows, belonging to Europeans, and clusters of the choicest mango trees, that form the most delightful shade ever impervious to the suns meridian rays. On our return, the fort of Monghir at a distance with the Ganges, winding through an extensive plain, alternately seen and concealed, pre-
sented

sented a second no less pleasing prospect; in short, I must say I never enjoyed a ride so much since I left my native land!

We are this moment losing sight of the military station of Burrampore, where the Governor staid only one day, as most of the troops had marched from thence in consequence of orders for a general change of the brigades, nothing particular occurred from leaving Monghir on the 16th instant, to our arrival at the above station on the 20th in the evening—We saw in many parts of the Cossinbazar river, which we entered below Rajemal, near Sooty, dreadful effects of the late hurricane, boats of all sorts buried in the sands, and human bodies innumerable exposed to view, mangled and torn by jackalls, dogs, and birds of prey,—altogether a most pitious! as well as offensive spectacle, I assure you! The Indiamen being all refitted again, and nearly ready for their voyages, I shall immediately on my arrival at Calcutta close these important dispatches, if they should happen to afford amusement to my beloved parents, I am satisfied.

Commander in Chief's Bungalow,
Barrickpore Nov. the 30th.

We arrived here safe and found the 27th, and found many good people assembled from Calcutta to congratulate the Governor on his return to the Presidency:—they all testified their astonishment at the extreme rapidity of our motions, and agreed in asserting it the first instance of the kind, where so very large a fleet of boats, performed, in less than four months, such an extensive and difficult navigation. As I am now come back to the very spot we embarked from, and from whence my journal commenced, I beg leave to close this uninteresting detail, the perusal of which must by this time have totally exhausted the stock of patience you may jointly enjoy. By the late papers from the coast, I am informed of poor George Cowper's death, in his way home from China!—The chief mate had got the command of the Pitt;—I pity my good aunt, her sorrows will be great, as her affection for her children knows no bounds!—My kindest duty to her, if you please. The
Government

Government house in Calcutta being only just painted, has prevented our moving from hence, since we arrived, but in two or three days it will be ready for his Lordship's reception: another large house close to it, is taken for the family, so we shall all be comfortably lodged this cold season, which we poor Indians are now making the most of. Our winter amusements are all begun, and weddings happen daily. As I have now written so long a letter to my dearest parents, for this is intended for their joint perusal, it must not be expected that I can find materials for any more by this ship, the Bufbridge Captain Robinson, which sails in a few days for Europe direct.

Calcutta December the 15th, 1787.

As the packet is going down to the Bufbridge Indiaman, I must immediately close my dispatch which I kept open to inform you of our being once more settled at the Presidency in good health, &c. We came into town from Barrickpore the 3d of this month, as the Government house was not finished for his Lordship's recep-

into

tion before, tho' the repairs had been ordered just on our leaving it—It is now a most beautiful mansion indeed. His Lordship ever attentive to the comfort and convenience of those about him, has taken another noble house for his family, and pays the rent out of his own allowances; I am now writing in one of the best and coolest bed chamber's in Calcutta, and have a small study besides, and every convenience for my horses and servants—We are most elegantly lodged, I assure you, thanks to his unbounded goodness! extended to us all! Now my dearest parents adieu for the present, I pray God to continue to you both, health and every comfort the world affords—may he reunite our scattered family in due time; and gladden all our hearts! Thus prays
your truly dutiful

and affectionate

S. O N

N. B. My Compliments, &c. present to all who enquire after me.

F I N I S.

